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Economic and Social Council

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Agenda item 13 (g)
Economic and environmental questions: public administration and development

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Dalius Čekuolis (Lithuania), on the basis of informal consultations held on the draft resolution contained in document E/2006/44

Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its fifth session and dates, venue and provisional agenda for the sixth session of the Committee

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2003/60 of 25 July 2003, 2005/3 of 31 March 2005 and 2005/55 of 21 October 2005,

Emphasizing that good governance and transparent and accountable public administration at the national and international levels will contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing that Member States stand to gain from the sharing of experiences in public administration innovation,

Taking note of the Brisbane Declaration on Community Engagement, adopted at the first International Conference on Engaging Communities, held in Brisbane, Australia, from 14 to 17 August 2005,[1]

Taking note also of the Seoul Declaration on Participatory and Transparent Governance, adopted at the sixth Global Forum on Reinventing Government, held in Seoul from 24 to 27 May 2005,[2]

Noting the recommendations of the *World Public Sector Report*, 2005: *Unlocking the Human Potential for Public Sector Performance*,[3] highlighting the

[1] Available from www.getinvolved/qld.gov.au/share_your_knowledge/un_conference/brisbanedeclaration.html.
[2] A/60/391, annex.
[3] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.H.5.

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strategic importance of improving the quality of human resources in the public sector as a means of developing strong institutions for public administration,

Emphasizing the important role of the United Nations in documenting and disseminating global best practices in governance and public administration for the purpose of contributing to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its fifth session;[4]

2. *Encourages* Governments to create an environment that is supportive of further improving an effective public administration including through change management, risk assessment and innovation, as appropriate, in order to provide better services to their citizens;

3. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen citizen trust in government by fostering public citizen participation in key processes of public policy development, public service delivery and public accountability;

4. *Requests* all Member States to abide by the principles of proper management of public affairs and public property, and fairness, responsibility and equality before the law, including the need to safeguard integrity and foster a culture of transparency, accountability and rejection of corruption at all levels and in all its forms, and in that regard urges Member States that have not yet done so to consider enacting laws to accomplish those ends;

5. *Recognizes* the role that the United Nations Public Service Awards could play in promoting and disseminating best practices in the field of public administration and in this regard requests the Secretariat to enhance the information to be provided to Member States on the Awards, with a view to encouraging greater participation;

6. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to assist Member States, upon their request, in developing e-government tools to improve participation, transparency, accountability and service delivery; and to increase the sharing of information, products and resources throughout the United Nations public administration network;

7. *Welcomes* the convening of the seventh Global Forum on Reinventing Government, to be held in Vienna in 2007, and in this connection encourages the active participation of Governments, as well as civil society organizations and the private sector, in the exchange of innovations and best practices that promote trust in government;

8. *Approves* the decision of the Committee to work according to a multi-year programme and to link it more closely to the theme of the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations Public Service Awards, based on the following priority areas:

2007

- Participatory governance and citizens' engagement in policy development, service delivery and budgeting

[4] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 24* (E/2006/44).

2008

- Capacity-building for development, including post-conflict reconstruction of public administration and crisis/disaster management

2009

- Building transparency, accountability and trust, including leadership development, through the tools of information and communication technologies

9. *Also approves* the convening of the sixth session of the Committee in the second quarter of 2007;

10. *Further approves* the following agenda for the sixth session of the Committee:

1. Participatory governance and citizens' engagement in policy development, service delivery and budgeting.
2. Compendium of basic United Nations terminology in governance and public administration.
3. Review of the United Nations programme in public administration and finance.
4. A public administration perspective on the theme of the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council.